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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 65  
By Crutchfield

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Shriners Hospitals for Children  
upon the 75th anniversary of the hospital in  
Lexington, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations that, through their extraordinary efforts, have improved the quality of life for the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners Hospital for Children is one such estimable institution; since its founding by the Oleika Temple on November 1, 1926, the Lexington, Kentucky Hospital has directly served thousands of Tennessee's children and made immeasurable improvements to their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners Hospitals for Children were created by the Shrine of North America as a charitable work; founded by thirteen members of the Masonic Order in 1872, the "World's Greatest Fraternity" has grown to include approximately 525,000 men in 191 Shrine Temples located throughout the United States as well as Canada, Mexico, and Panama; and

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WHEREAS, dedicated to philanthropy since their early years, the Shriners were vital to the relief of the tremendous suffering during the 1888 Yellow Fever epidemic in Jacksonville, Florida; in 1920, the Shriners made the decision to found a national network of children's hospitals, funded originally by an annual two dollar assessment on each Shriner; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 1922, the first of the Shriners Hospitals was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana; since the first admittance of a little girl with a club foot who had learned to walk on the top of her foot, the "World's Greatest Philanthropy" has grown into an international network that treats children at twenty-two locations in 18 states and Mexico and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners Hospitals for Children treat children up to the age of eighteen years, at no cost to the patients, and with no financial support from any governmental or insuring body; they treat any child who displays need and can possibly benefit from the Shriners' services, regardless of race, religion, or relationship to any Shriner; and

WHEREAS, in maintaining their financial autonomy, the Hospitals are able to ensure the ability to base decisions solely on the criteria of what will be best for the children; the Shriners Hospitals for Children aid our nation's youth through orthopedic, burn, and spinal treatments; and

WHEREAS, at the Hospitals' eighteen orthopedic centers, including the Lexington institution, the noble physicians, nurses, and staff treat children for congenital orthopedic deformities, problems from orthopedic injuries, and diseases of the musculoskeletal system; additionally, three of the orthopedic hospitals have special programs to help children with spinal cord injuries; and

WHEREAS, at the four burn centers, the Shriners Hospitals for Children provide vital treatments for those who have acute, fresh burns; need plastic, reconstructive, or restorative surgery as a result of "healed" burns; are severely scarred causing contracture or interference with the mobility of limbs; or have scarring and deformity of their faces; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners Hospitals for Children are also progressive leaders in medical research and training; since first devoting major funding to research in the 1960s, the Hospitals have made discoveries leading to tremendous advances in the knowledge of genetic bases for bone diseases and connective tissue disorders, prevention of scar tissue formation following severe burns, and reasons why painkilling drugs react differently in burned children; due in part to the Shriners Hospitals' research, the survival rate for burn victims has increased drastically in the past three decades; and

WHEREAS, the Hospitals make every effort to ensure that children across the nation will benefit from the breakthroughs that are made in their research programs; one quarter of our nation's orthopedic surgeons have received pediatric training from the Shriners Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, the Shriners Hospitals for Children is a truly astounding organization; it is the fifth largest nonprofit organization in the United States and boasts the largest endowment of any American charity; since the 1922 founding, the Hospitals have treated 600,000 children, seen five million patients through outpatient and outreach clinic visits, and performed seven million X-rays and twelve million physical therapy treatments; and

WHEREAS, now separate legal and financial entities, the Shrine of North America and Shriners Hospitals for Children remain linked by the Shrine's continued support of the Hospital's mission; composed of extremely giving persons who are reaching out to those disadvantaged children with special needs, both the Shrine and the Hospitals are venerable institutions which have made admirable contributions to improving the quality of life of the children and families of Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the people who compose Shrine of North America and the Shriners Hospitals for Children, wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the good people who are affiliated with the Shriners Hospital for Children, thank them for their honorable and astute service to the children and families of Tennessee, and join in celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.